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From techcessories to 'treasure' threads, will.i.am explains fashionology to Metro

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Conduct investigation

Ethics probe welcome, says Premier Redford

Premier Alison Redford says she welcomes investigations by the ethics commissioner and Elections Alberta into the conduct of her government and her party.

Earlier this week the ethics commissioner revealed details of its probe into a conflict of interest allegation involving Redford over a government lawsuit filed against Big Tobacco.

Alberta's opposition parties allege that Redford awarded the lawsuit contract to a group of law firms that included her former husband, Robert Hawkes, when she was justice minister.

The Elections Alberta investigation is reviewing campaign donations made by Edmonton Oilers owner Daryl Katz last year to the Progressive Conservative Party of Alberta.

The Opposition has been calling for the investigation since last fall after media reports indicated the PCs accepted a single \$430,000 donation when the legal limit for a single donation is \$30,000.

Elections Alberta has named a retired Queen's Bench judge and two independent investigators to conduct the probe.

"My point is this is exactly what should happen," Redford said Wednesday.

The Wildrose claimed Wednesday that Alberta Justice Minister Jonathan Denis refused to acknowledge the seriousness of the ethics allegations, instead saying the opposition was in the pocket of Big Tobacco.

"There are potentially billions of dollars on the line in contingency fees and this minister insists on keeping Albertans in the dark on whether or not they received the best deal," Wildrose MLA Shayne Sas-kiw said. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



Belts tightening as oil revenues falling

Redford on the record.

Premier promises no new taxes to balance next budget

RYAN TUMILTY
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Premier Alison Redford said Monday that government departments are being asked to cut spending as declining oil prices continue to weaken Alberta's finances.

Redford made the remarks at a seminar for the Realtor's Association of Edmonton Wednesday morning.

"A sudden drop in oil in the

last two months has affected our finances significantly," said Redford. "Energy royalties historically have made up almost 30 per cent of the revenue that we rely on to budget the services that matter to Albertans."

Redford said the government was still pushing to keep the province out of debt in the coming budget.

"We will do everything in our power to meet our commitment to balance the budget that is fundamental to what we believe as Albertans and Progressive Conservatives," she said. "Every department has been asked in the last three weeks to review spending plans and restrain costs for next year's budget."

At a later event, Redford said the government would not raise taxes to balance the budget.

"We know that this sudden drop in oil revenue has meant that we need to put all options on the table. It is part of what we are talking about as ministers," Redford said. "Caucus and I are discussing it. My preference is clear. I don't want to see new taxes."

Wildrose finance critic Rob Anderson said the government should focus solely on spending.

He said most people in the province wouldn't stand for it.

"I think Albertans are not in favour of it in any shape or form," he said from Airdrie.

Deficit forecast

- **Premium care.** Albertans have not faced a tax increase provincially since 2002 when the government increased the Health Care Premiums which have since been eliminated.
- **Billions in deficit.** Currently, the deficit forecast for this fiscal year is between \$2.3 billion and \$3 billion.

Redford would not say when her government will present its upcoming budget.

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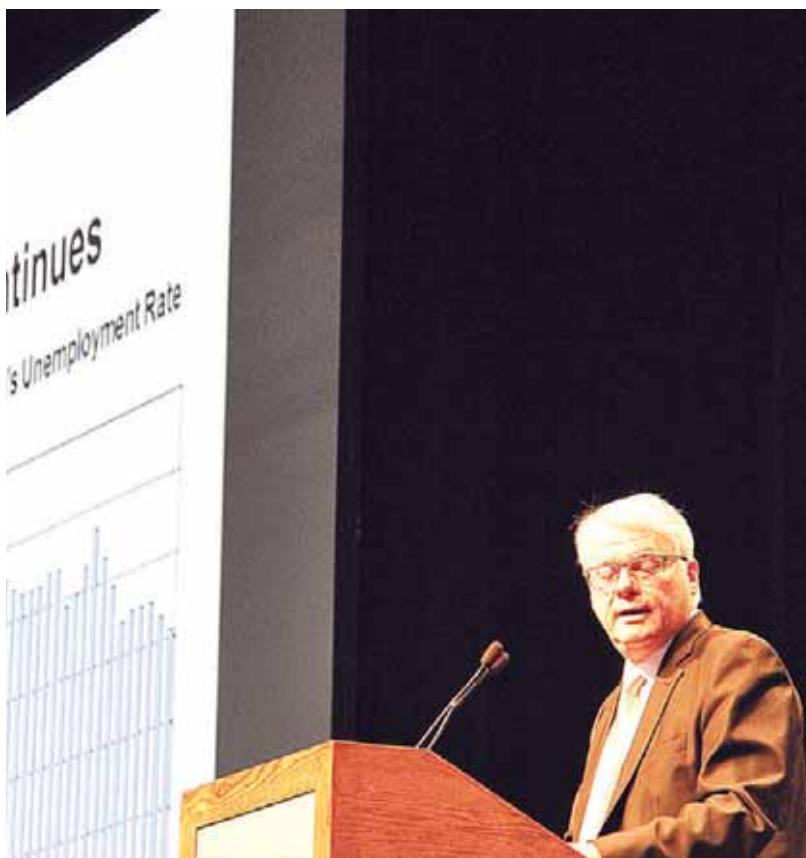


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City of Edmonton chief economist John Rose believes Alberta will continue to have among the strongest economies in North America in the year ahead. But he also raised concerns about labour shortages and oil prices in a speech to the Realtors Association of Edmonton. RYAN TUMILTY/METRO

Housing market to stay strong in 2013: Realtors

Rosy outlook, with a few caveats. Modest growth forecast for the year ahead

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Edmonton's realtors see a bright future for the city's housing market this year with strong and steady growth in the city.

The Realtors Association of Edmonton made the announcement Wednesday saying they believe the market will grow by three percent, while housing prices will climb two per cent and condominium prices one per cent.

"We think this year very much mirrors the past couple of years with sustained

By the numbers

- The Realtors Association forecast that the average selling price of a home in Edmonton will rise from \$382,000 to \$390,000.
- According to the Multiple Listing Service, approximately \$7 billion in real estate changed hands in the Edmonton area in 2012.

lighted was the shortage of labour, which he cautioned could make it difficult for some businesses.

"Employers are not going to be able to find the skills and the talents to grow their businesses the way they might want to, so it is a brake on the economy."

Rose also raised concerns about oil prices, which could be hurt in Alberta if the province can't find more ways to export oil.

"We simply do not have the pipeline export capacity to move the oil out of this province," he said.

Cook said despite those concerns he is still optimistic about Edmonton's growth in the year ahead.

"We can't always foresee events, global events that may happen, but right here in Alberta we have been very, very lucky."

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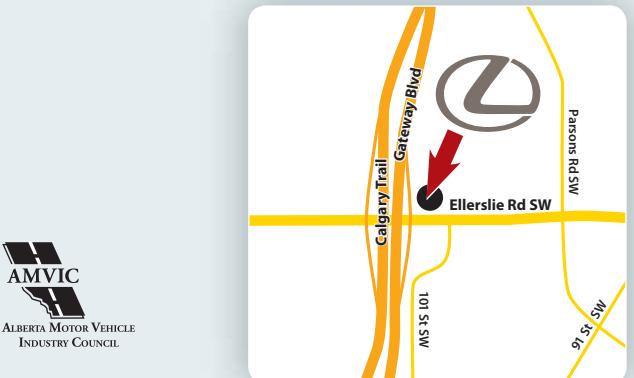
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Head and neck cancers. Ditch the razors and grow a beard for 'Manuary'

Before discovering a couple of painless, odd and unusual lumps on the side of his neck in August of 2010, Wade Wilson had never heard of head and neck cancer.

After undergoing surgery, radiation and chemotherapy, the 49-year-old is today cancer-free and keen to raise awareness about cancers of the mouth, tongue, upper throat and voice box.

"(Head and neck cancers) are quite invasive because it's in your head and neck and face area," Wilson said.

"A lot of patients end up losing part of their tongue, their face, their jaw or their voice box."

Head and neck cancer affects both sexes, but men are four times more likely to be affected.

Wilson has made a full recovery, thanks to "first-class" treatment at the University of Alberta Hospital, including a salivary-gland transfer procedure that was pioneered in Edmonton.

He is one of several Edmontonians raising both funds and awareness for the Head and Neck Cancer Surgery Program

Quoted

"We want people to go to manuary.ca and either start their own fundraising team or support another team."

Wade Wilson, a head and neck cancer survivor and the 2013 Community Champion for Manuary

at the University of Alberta Hospital, this month, through a fundraiser called Manuary.

"We want people to go to manuary.ca and either start their own fundraising team or support another team," Wilson said.

In addition to raising money and spreading the word, participants are ditching their razors and growing beards for the month of January, aka Manuary.

All money raised will go to the hospital's multidisciplinary program dedicated to providing immediate, full reconstruction and restoring function, appearance and dignity to patients with head and neck cancer.

ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO



Green in the grey of winter

Emily Lavender stripped down to a green bikini and body paint to distribute PETA leaflets to people outside of the City Centre Mall on Wednesday at noon. Lavender and Shelby Kilbride (not pictured) braved the cold to hand out material encouraging people to "go vegan" and enjoy meat-free meals. ANNALISE KLINGBEIL/METRO

Mourning. Local student who died in Mexico remembered on the web

As news of his death spread, friends went online to remember Chris Rogers, a University of Alberta student who fell from a balcony at a Mexican resort last weekend.

"We are so sad to hear of the tragic passing of one of our Bulldog alumni, Chris Rogers, from the class of 2009," tweeted Bellrose Composite High School on Wednesday.

"Thoughts and prayers to the family and friends of engineering student Chris Rogers on his tragic passing," said the University of Alberta, through their Twitter account.

A memorial Facebook group called Rogers a "fine

Mexican reports

- According to Mexican media reports, the 21-year-old fell over a balcony railing after being punched in the face at a hotel bar early Saturday morning.
- Rogers enjoyed playing hockey and was finishing an engineering degree at the University of Alberta, said a friend.

example" of a man, student, son, nephew, cousin and friend. METRO

New management

XL Foods plant taken over by multinational

The XL Foods meat packing plant that was at the centre of the largest meat recall in Canadian history has been acquired by the subsidiary of a

Brazilian company. JBS South America says its Canadian division, JBS Food Canada, expects to complete the purchase of the XL operations in Brooks, Alta., on Monday.

JBS took over management of the XL Foods facility in October when an E. coli bacteria outbreak led to the massive meat recall.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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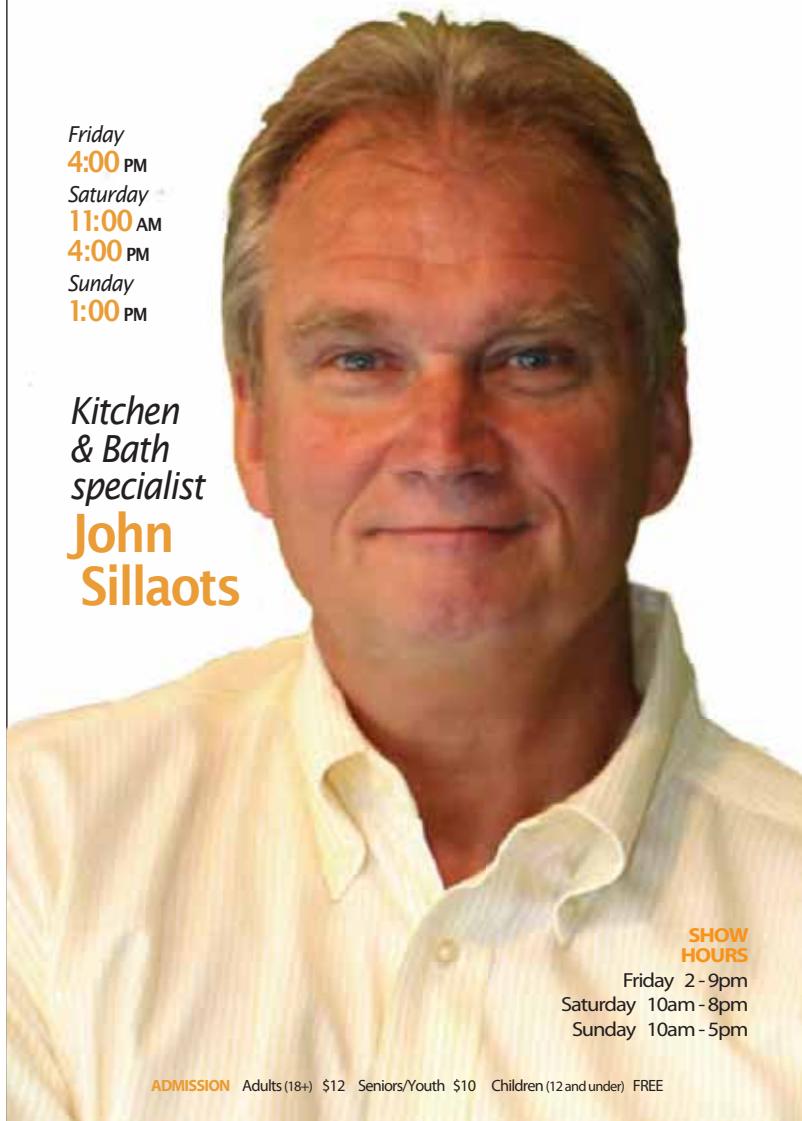
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Family takes to sea to escape raging fires



Tammy Holmes, second from left, and her grandchildren take refuge under a jetty as a wildfire rages nearby in the Tasmanian town of Dunalley, Australia, on Jan. 4. TIM HOLMES/HOLMES FAMILY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

South Australia. Milder temperatures reduce danger, but scores of blazes still burn

10 days occurred in 2013. "If you look at its extent, its duration, its intensity, it is arguably the most significant in Australia's history," said David Jones, with the Bureau of Meteorology.

No deaths have been reported from wildfires, but around 100 people haven't been accounted for since a blaze destroyed about 90 homes in Dunalley, Tasmania.

Survivors have told stories of swirling flames, toxic fumes and desperate escapes.

Tim Holmes fled his burning home near Dunalley on Friday with his wife, Tammy, and five grandchildren, aged 2

to 11, and took shelter in the sea beneath a wooden jetty.

"The difficulty was there was so much smoke and embers and there was probably 8 to 12 inches of air above the water," Holmes told Australian Broadcasting Corp. television.

"So we were all just heads; water up to our chins just trying to breathe because it was just — the atmosphere was so incredibly toxic," he added.

The fires have been most devastating in Tasmania, where at least 128 homes and more than 80,000 hectares have burned. Hundreds of people remain at evacuation centres. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Mideast. Severity of storm shocks region

The fiercest winter storm to hit the Mideast in years brought a rare foot of snow to Jordan on Wednesday, caused fatal accidents in Lebanon and the West Bank, and disrupted traffic on the Suez Canal in Egypt. At least eight people died across the region.

In Lebanon, the Red Cross said storm-related accidents killed six people over the past two days. Several drowned after slipping into rivers from flooded roads. One person froze to death and another died after his car went off a slippery road.

In the West Bank town of Ramallah, a Palestinian official said two women drowned after their car was caught in a flash flood on Tuesday.

In the Gaza Strip, civil defence spokesman Mohammed al-Haj Yousef said storms cut electricity to thousands of Palestinian homes and rescuers

were sent to organize evacuations. The weather hit Syrian refugees in tent camps very hard. Torrential rains over four days have flooded some 200 tents and forced women and infants to evacuate in temperatures that dipped below freezing.

Jordanian weatherman Mohammed Samawi called it the "fiercest storm to hit the Mideast in the month of January at least 30 years."

MENA also reported ten fishermen missing after their boat capsized off Egypt in the Mediterranean. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Second World War

Soldier's duffel bag returned 7 decades later

A U.S. man who served in France during the Second World War has been reunited with his army duffel bag nearly seventy years after it went missing.

William Kadar opened a carefully wrapped package Tuesday to find the bag, still stenciled with his name and serial number.

The 92-year-old Kadar tells the Post-Tribune in Indiana that he last saw the bag in November 1944, a month before he was captured by the Germans.

His granddaughter says a 16-year-old French boy found the bag in his grandfather's house and tracked Kadar down.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An Iraqi army soldier, in this 2006 file photo, closes the door of a cell in Abu Ghraib prison on the outskirts of Baghdad after the Iraqi government took over control from U.S. forces. Former inmates at the prison have received compensation from a defence contractor whose subsidiary was accused in a lawsuit of conspiring to engage in torture at Abu Ghraib. KHALID MOHAMMED/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iraqi ex-prisoners paid millions in torture lawsuit

Abu Ghraib. Military investigation in 2004 identified 44 alleged incidents of detainee abuse at infamous jail

A defence contractor whose subsidiary was accused in a lawsuit of conspiring to torture detainees at the infamous Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq has paid \$5.28 million US to 71 former inmates held there and at other U.S.-run detention sites from 2003 to 2007.

The settlement in the case

involving Engility Holdings Inc. marks the first successful effort by lawyers for former prisoners at Abu Ghraib and other detention centres to collect money from a U.S. defence contractor in lawsuits alleging torture. Another contractor, CACI, is expected to go to trial over similar allegations this summer.

The payments were disclosed in a document that Engility filed with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission two months ago, but it has gone essentially unnoticed.

The defendant in the lawsuit, L-3 Services Inc., now an Engility subsidiary, provided

translators to the U.S. military in Iraq.

L-3 Services "permitted scores of its employees to participate in torturing and abusing prisoners over an extended period of time throughout Iraq," the lawsuit stated. The company "wilfully failed to report L-3 employees' repeated assaults and other criminal conduct by its employees to the United States or Iraq authorities."

Several inmates said they were raped and many said they were beaten and kept naked for extended periods of time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mexico

Feral dogs may have killed 5th victim

A 15-year-old girl found fatally bitten by dogs outside a Mexico City park in mid-December may have been the victim of a feral pack suspected of killing at least four other people over the last month, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Ana Gabriela Nataret Ramirez died in hospital after being found covered with dog bites near the Cerro de la Estrella park in the Mexico City district of Iztapalapa.

Authorities began capturing dogs in the park this week after a mother and her infant boy were found dead and covered in dog bites on Dec. 29, and the bodies of a teenage couple were found covered with fatal bites a week later.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Politics. Chavez's faltering health has U.S. eyeing renewed ties with Venezuela

With President Hugo Chavez possibly in his last days, the United States sees the possibility of a long-sought reset in relations with Venezuela.

Chavez recently underwent his fourth cancer-related surgery in Cuba and there is wide speculation that the 58-year-old — at the very least — will never again be able to govern. His allies have postponed his inauguration for a new presidential term, originally scheduled for Thursday, prompting a fierce battle with the Venezuelan opposition, which argues such a delay is unconstitutional.

The Obama administration is steering clear of the legal debate. But it is nevertheless looking to the likely end of Chavez's 14-year rule, during which he championed a Latin

Quoted

"Regardless of what happens politically in Venezuela, if the Venezuelan government and if the Venezuelan people want to move forward with us, we think there is a path that's possible."

U.S. State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland

America free of American influence and built alliances with U.S. foes across the globe such as Iran and Libya's Moammar Gadhafi, destroying anti-drug and counterterrorism ties with Washington along the way.

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No royal rep? No meeting: Chief Spence

Hunger strike. First Nations leader calls on Queen to help get Governor General in Friday meeting

Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence abruptly changed her mind Wednesday, refusing to attend Friday's hard-won First Nations meetings with the federal government because Gov. Gen. David Johnston isn't planning to be there.

Spence — whose month-long protest on Victoria Island was predicated on winning a meeting with both Johnston and Prime Minister Stephen Harper — said she's written to Buckingham Palace to enlist the help of the Queen.

Social-media speculation that Johnston might change his mind was scuttled Wednesday afternoon by a spokesperson for Rideau Hall: "As previously stated, the Governor General

will not attend Friday's meeting. This has not changed."

Spence has been camped out on an island in the Ottawa River since Dec. 11, subsisting solely on fish broth and medicinal tea in hopes of convincing Harper and Johnston to sit down with First Nations leaders to discuss historical treaty rights.

Spence wants Johnston present at the meetings because the talks are supposed to focus on the treaty rights that were established by the Royal Proclamation of 1793, issued by King George III.

"We have sent a letter to Buckingham Palace, requesting that Queen Elizabeth II send forth her representative, which is the Governor General of Canada," she said in a statement.

A spokesperson for Johnston has said he would not attend the sessions on Friday because the gathering is a working meeting with government on public policy issues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



Killer whales in a fight for their lives

Orcas surface for air in a small hole in the ice near Inukjuak, Que., on Wednesday. The community, in Quebec's Far North, wants Ottawa to deploy an icebreaker to free about a dozen of the whales cornered under a vast stretch of sea ice. Locals say the mammals have gathered around one hole in the ice — slightly bigger than a pickup truck — in their desperate bid to get oxygen. Mayor Peter Inukpuk believes a sudden drop in temperature recently caught the pod off guard, leaving them boxed in under the ice.

MARINA LACASSE/HANDOUT/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hudson Bay

Stranded hunters rescue rescuer from helicopter

A pair of seal hunters stranded on Arctic ice had to become rescuers themselves Wednesday when the chopper sent to save them fell through the ice.

Capt. Jill Strelief of 1 Canadian Air Division said the hunters made their way through the frigid water to pull the pilot to safety.

All three men were taken to hospital and treated for hypothermia.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Worthy investment

Poll shows Canadian support for arts & culture

An overwhelming majority of Canadians believe arts and culture is worthy of government support, according to the results of a poll commissioned by Canadian Heritage. Asked how important it is that government supports arts and culture, 39 per cent chose "a great deal."

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Berlusconi rails at 'communist,' 'feminist' judges

Silvio's hefty divorce settlement. Chief judge says she was 'hurt' by former Italian premier's accusations

Former premier Silvio Berlusconi has infuriated Italy's legal establishment by blasting a group of female magistrates as "feminist" and "communist" for what he said was a \$258,000-a-day divorce settlement.

The comments — and the backlash — have added to the drama surrounding Berlusconi's return to public life amid his continued sexual and legal scandals and his new role as the leader of a centre-right coalition campaigning in Italy's Feb. 24-25 election.

Italian media initially reported that Berlusconi's divorce



Silvio Berlusconi GETTY IMAGES

from his second wife, Veronica Lario, would cost him \$46 million a year. That breaks down to about \$129,000 a day.

But on Tuesday, Berlusconi told the La7 private television network that the amount was much higher. While he didn't detail how he got to a \$258,000-a-day figure, he said

he was ordered by the Milan magistrates to pay Lario \$46.4 million a year, with another \$93 million in back payments.

"These are three women judges, feminists and communists, OK?" the three-time ex-premier said. "These are the Milan judges who have persecuted me since 1994."

Berlusconi has long accused Milan prosecutors and magistrates of mounting politically inspired cases against him and he frequently accuses his legal and political enemies of being communists.

Milan chief judge Livia Pomodoro said Wednesday that she was "surprised and hurt" by the remarks and that "as a woman, I am degraded."

In a joint statement, Pomodoro and the head of Milan's appeals court "strongly rejected any insinuation of partiality" by the tribunal's judges.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Commuters, 11 seriously injured after Manhattan ferry crashes into dock

A high-speed ferry loaded with hundreds of commuters from New Jersey crashed into a dock in lower Manhattan on Wednesday during the morning rush hour, seriously injuring 11 people, including one who suffered a severe head wound falling down a stairwell.

Scores of people who had been standing, waiting to disembark, were hurled to the deck or launched into walls by the impact, which came after the catamaran Seastreak Wall Street slowed following a routine trip across New York Bay and past the Statue of Liberty, passengers said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



An injured passenger from the Seastreak Wall Street ferry is interviewed by a police officer in New York Wednesday. RICHARD DREW/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

"We were pulling into the dock. The boat hit the dock. We just tumbled on top of each other. I got thrown into everybody else.... People were hysterical, crying," said Ellen Foran, 57, of Neptune City, N.J.

The collision, which ripped open a small part of the hull like an aluminum can, happened at 8:45 a.m. at a pier near the South Street Seaport at Manhattan's southern tip. Around 70 people suffered minor injuries, and for nearly two hours paramedics treated bruised and dazed passengers on the pier.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ride down Russian ski slope inside zorb ends in death

On video. Giant plastic ball flies off course, killing man and leaving friend badly injured

It was supposed to be a thrilling ride down a ski slope inside a giant inflatable ball, which is to be one of the symbols of next year's Winter Olympics, but it ended in tragedy for the two Russian men inside.

The transparent plastic ball — known as a zorb — veered off course and sailed over a rock ledge in the rugged Caucasus Mountains of southern Russia. The ball picked up speed as it flew down the steep slope, rolling and bouncing. One man

was killed and the other badly injured.

The man who died, 27-year-old Denis Burakov, was with friends at the Dombai ski resort, where they frequently went snowboarding, on Jan. 3 when he decided to take a ride in a zorb being operated next to a beginners' slope. His friend Vladimir Shcherbakov joined him.

An eight-minute video taken on Burakov's phone by one of his friends shows the two men being fitted into harnesses inside the zorb, which consists of two polyurethane balls with a layer of air between them. The zorb is then released to roll down the hill, the two men spinning inside.

But the zorb bounces off the intended path, and a man waiting for it at the bottom of the hill tries in vain to catch the ball before it pops over a rocky ledge and disappears down a gorge below Mount Mussa-Achitara.

The person filming the video is heard swearing and asking "What's down there?" The answer from someone off camera: "It's a catastrophe down there." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Denis Burakov, left, inside a large plastic ball called a zorb.



Burakov and a friend inside the zorb on Jan. 3 as they roll down a hill before tragedy struck. PROVIDED BY YEKATERINA ACHKASOVA/APTN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Botched probe must spark change: Lawyer

Soldier suicide.

Investigation designed to absolve military, argues retired colonel

The pain endured by the family of an Edmonton soldier who killed himself should be used as a springboard for changes to the treatment of veterans and their loved ones, the family's lawyer said Wednesday.

The investigations into the 2008 suicide of Cpl. Stuart Langridge were handled in an inept manner, retired colonel Michel Drapeau told the Military Police Complaints Commission hearing.

After eight months of work and 92 witnesses, the hearing ended Wednesday, with Drapeau and lawyers for the government pressing their cases for a final time.

The public interest hearing was convened following com-

Unimpressed

"It has created an extra layer of pain ... that was preventable ... had a modicum of transparency, accountability and basic compassion been displayed."

Retired colonel Michel Drapeau on investigations into the suicide of Cpl. Stuart Langridge.

plaints from Langridge's family that the investigation into their son's death was biased and designed to absolve the military.

Langridge, a veteran of Afghanistan and Bosnia, hanged

himself in March 2008 following treatment for drug and alcohol addiction in a civilian hospital.

The inquiry heard how military police concealed Lang-

ridge's suicide note from his parents for 14 months, claiming it was evidence in a suspicious-death probe.

The National Investigation Service has acknowledged it mishandled the note and has improved its procedures since, said Korinda McLaine, lawyer for the federal government.

"Although it may be tempting to look back on the investigations with the perfect lens of hindsight, that would not be fair to the subjects in this com-

plaint," she said.

There were also conflicting claims about whether the troubled soldier was on a suicide watch prior to his death. If so, the military would have been liable for his death.

The inquiry also heard how the final military police report into the death was heavily rewritten and censored.

All of this was to protect the military, not respect Langridge or his family, Drapeau said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Hearing date set. Alleged murderer Luka Magnotta returns to the courtroom

A shackled Luka Rocco Magnotta remained impassive as he made his first court appearance since last June on a first-degree murder charge in the gruesome slaying of a Montreal university student.

Lawyers set the stage on Wednesday for a preliminary hearing beginning March 11.

The hearing, which will determine whether the 30-year-old Ontario native is sent to trial, is scheduled to last at least two weeks and possibly resume in June.

Magnotta is charged with first-degree murder in the slaying and dismemberment of Chinese engineering student

Jun Lin last May.

Most of the contents of Wednesday's 35-minute hearing cannot be revealed because of a publication ban.

Magnotta faces other charges: Committing an indignity to a body; publishing obscene material; criminally harassing Prime Minister Stephen Harper and other members of Parliament; and mailing obscene and indecent material.

He is accused of mailing Lin's body parts to different places, including the Ottawa offices of the Conservative Party of Canada, the Liberal Party of Canada and two Vancouver schools. THE CANADIAN PRESS



An artist rendering of alleged killer Luka Rocco Magnotta in a Montreal court on Wednesday. MIKE MC LAUGHLIN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Newtown shooting

Obama to take drastic action on gun control: VP

U.S. President Barack Obama intends to take serious action on gun control, even if it means circumventing Congress and issuing executive orders to do so, Joe Biden suggested Wednesday.

"The president is going to act," said the vice-president, who's heading a task force on gun control.

Last month's mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., has

necessitated "immediate, urgent action," Biden added.

Obama hopes to announce his administration's gun reform measures shortly after his inauguration on Jan. 21.

The inaugural weekend festivities might be disrupted by a coalition of conservative and gun-rights groups organizing a "Gun Appreciation Day" on the weekend of the inauguration. The group is calling on people to visit gun stores, gun ranges and gun shows with U.S. flags and "Hands off my gun" signs.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Lotto win fallout

Wife of slain U.S. lottery winner questioned

Chicago police investigating the mysterious cyanide death of a lottery winner questioned his wife for more than four hours and executed a search warrant on their home.

Shabana Ansari's attorney, Steven Kozicki, says Ansari was subjected to a long session of questioning at a police

station in November and that detectives searched the home.

Ansari would not talk about the circumstances of her husband's death, saying it was too painful to recall. She said only that he fell ill shortly after they ate dinner together. Khan died just days before he was to collect \$425,000 in lottery winnings.

Authorities initially ruled the death a result of natural causes, but further tests showed he was poisoned and his death was reclassified as a homicide.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Get your bling

Duffel bags full of jewelry a headache for N.Y. police

Police in upstate New York face a daunting task in finding owners for jewelry and other valuables discovered stuffed into 31 duffel bags.

Few clues point to the owners of the roughly 30,000 items discovered after 39-year-old John Suddard's recent arrest. So police in the village of Hudson Falls near the Ver-



A pile of jewelry among the mass of seized stolen goods.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

mont border are taking the novel step of displaying the items at the local high school Wednesday night.

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A U.S. study links exposure to the element lead with increases in violent behaviour. WIKI COMMONS



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Link found between lead exposure and violent crime

Study. Findings say exposure attacks the brain's neuron connections, causing lower IQ, attention-deficit disorder and aggression

It's in your lipstick and your front garden, and scientists now claim to have proven that the metal element lead causes violent crime. Wide-ranging research into a "public health catastrophe" showed people exposed to lead as children are more likely to offend as adults.

Using data from 90 U.S. cities since the 1950s, researchers at the University of Tulane, New Orleans, found that violent-crime rates mirrored lead emissions.

They rose sharply around

Lurking around

Lead can be found in many forms around the home, including:

- **Walls.** Homes built before 1980 commonly used lead paint.
- **Soil.** Contains traces, and concentration is higher in urban areas.

20 years after the introduction of leaded gasoline and began to fall the same interval after it was phased out in the 1970s.

Crime rates remained high only in cities where emissions remained high. The correlation also applied at a neighbourhood level, and the data is even being used by local police forces.

KIERON MONKS/METRO WORLD NEWS

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Lump it! Half of Canucks contribute to RRSPs all at once

March 1 deadline. But stress of saving would be reduced by putting aside smaller sums throughout year, new survey finds

Canadians who are stressed about the annual RRSP deadline are not alone, according to a new study that found 60 per cent of respondents feel anxious about coming up with the money for their retirement savings.

And almost half of respondents to the survey — 49 per cent — who make an annual RRSP contribution do so in a lump sum, said the Bank of Montreal study released Wednesday.

The uneasiness around the March 1 deadline is understandable when Canadians have to deal with other financial priorities, said Marlena Pospiech, senior manager

Market Minute	
	DOLLAR 101.25¢ (-0.10¢)
	TSX 12,522.24 (+17.43)
	OIL \$93.10 US (-5¢)
	GOLD \$1,655.50 US (-\$6.70)
Natural gas: \$3.11 US (-10.5¢) Dow Jones: 13,390.51 (+61.66)	

with BMO Wealth Planning Group.

"If they haven't saved regularly it could be really hard, especially coming out of the holiday season and if they have racked up a lot of debt over that time," Pospiech said.

The BMO study also found

By the numbers
\$4,670

BMO said that the average amount contributed to a registered retirement savings plan in 2011 was \$4,670. Putting aside just under \$400 a month in a continuous savings plan for an RRSP would generate that amount.

that 54 per cent of those surveyed would feel less stressed if they made regular RRSP contributions throughout the year to meet the deadline. BMO said contributing even a small amount — a few hundred dollars — to an RRSP is better than nothing at all. "If they don't have the full amount, that should not stop them from making a contribution," Pospiech said.

Any little bit helps because of the tax-deferred compound growth. It makes their money work a lot harder for them rather than having it just sitting." **THE CANADIAN PRESS**



The HAPIfork smart electronic fork is demonstrated at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas. The fork vibrates and lights up to help its user slow down to a healthy eating pace. **JULIE JACOBSON/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Electronic fork can slow down speedy eaters

If you've always wanted a fork that spies on your eating habits, you're in luck: A company has developed a utensil that records when you lift it to your mouth.

The electronic fork is one of the gadgets getting attention this week at the International CES in Las Vegas, an annual showcase of the latest TVs, computers and other consumer electronic devices.

The HAPIfork, made by HAPIforks, is a fork with a handle containing electronics and a battery. It has a motion sensor, so it can figure out when it's

being lifted to the mouth. If it senses that you're eating too fast, it warns you with a vibration and a blinking light. The company believes that using the fork 60 to 75 times during meals lasting from 20 to 30 minutes is ideal.

Between meals, you can connect the fork to a computer or phone and upload data on how fast you're eating, for long-term tracking.

Nutritional experts recommend eating slowly because it takes about 20 minutes to start feeling full. If you eat fast, you may eat too much. The fork

is also designed to space your mouthfuls so you have time to chew each one properly.

But the fork has no clue about the nutritional content of your food or how big your forkfuls are. It can't tell if you're shovelling lard or stabbing peas individually.

The company is launching a fundraising campaign for the product in March on the group-fundraising site Kickstarter.com. Participants need to put down \$99 US for a fork, and it's expected the gadgets will ship around April or May.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



So long Messenger, hello Skype

Those nostalgic for the days of overly personal status updates and usernames with alternating caps may be disappointed by Microsoft's latest move to retire its once-dominant MSN/Windows Live Messenger. Accounts will be migrated over to Skype during the course of the first quarter of 2013, according to a blog post from Tony Bates, president of Microsoft's Skype division. **PHOTO ILLUSTRATION MARIO TAMA/GETTY IMAGES**

Speculation

Will Apple make a cheaper iPhone?

A published report says Apple may introduce a cheaper iPhone in an effort to reclaim some of the sales that the company has been losing to less expensive hand-

sets running on Google's Android software.

A story in The Wall Street Journal speculates that Apple could lower the iPhone's price by equipping the device with an exterior that costs less than aluminum housing on current models. Apple Inc. declined to comment. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

Take flight. Contest offers trip to space

One Canadian will get the chance to become an astronaut as part of a contest that will send winners 100 kilometres into space.

Contestants from 60 countries will vie for a trip on a suborbital spacecraft named the Lynx, a two-seat space plane that takes off and lands as a normal airplane at regular airports. Seats aboard the vehicle usually cost about \$100,000 US.

By joining the "space academy" at AXEApollo.com, both men and women will have the chance to win one of 22 tickets to travel on the Lynx. Contestants are asked to create an astronaut profile and tell the world why they deserve to go to space.

Two Canadians will win a place at the final stage at the AXE global space camp in Orlando, Fla., with one Canadian getting the chance to shoot into space.

The space camp is backed by Buzz Aldrin, who was one of the first men to walk on the moon. Aldrin will be recruiting the candidates. The final 22 spots will be decided on space-simulation challenges.

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IT'S ALL IN THE GAME – TIME TO MAKE UP



HE

SAYS...

John Mazerolle
metronews.ca/voices/
he-says

Yes, yes. I'm deeply shocked that people who make a lot of money are greedy, especially professional athletes and corporate owners, two groups that have such a strong record of selflessness.

Now pipe down. The game's on.

I'm unequivocally, unapologetically ecstatic the NHL is back from its four-month lockout. This apparently makes me a sheep, according to many bitter fans and newspaper columnists. Baa, baa, go Bruins.

I suffered as much as the next person — my local bar replaced hockey with 80s karaoke — but I know that any ill feelings will melt away for me as soon as the puck is dropped. Sorry.

If you're still bitter, you at least have some goodies coming your way. The NHL knows it has some making up to do, and has announced a series of initiatives to help win fans back who may be sore with the league. I've obtained a copy of their game plan, highlights of which are printed below.

NHL Fan Redemption Program: Don't Look Back in Fan-ger

Keep the goodies coming

Fans to get premium interest rates for any loans used at games to buy hot dogs and beer.

- "Thank you, fans" messages plastered throughout league will have not one, not two, not three, but FOUR exclamation points, to show it's not hollow. They will be placed not just on the ice but also in other places where they can be easily viewed, such as on the seats in Phoenix.

- Ilya Bryzgalov, Tim Thomas and Paul Bissonnette to lead league-wide seminars on dealing with the media.

- The league hopes to put a positive spin on the work stoppage with a free download of Stompin' Tom Connor's little-heard Hockey Related Revenue Song. ("Hello out there, Bettman and Fehr, it's lockout night tonight. The Make Whole's closed and the pension grows but the NHL's on ice...")

- Fans to get premium interest rates for any loans used at games to buy hot dogs and beer.

- The NHL will expand further to Corpus Christi, Texas, and Mobile, Ala., so that the current expansion teams don't seem so ridiculous. Other possibilities include Mexico, Japan, and the molten hot core of the earth. Anything but Hamilton.

- Half-price coupons for the season-ticket holders in Anaheim. Specifically, David and Jennifer Boyd of 1058 Sunnyside Ave., Anaheim, Calif.

- Make NHL Centre Ice free, UNLESS revenue is less than \$2.2 billion this season, in which case part of an NHL Centre Ice fund will go into escrow, which would then be distributed to Make Whole production costs, provided fans don't decide to file a disclaimer of interest, in which case...

- Gary Bettman leaving NHL to take over NASCAR. His first goal will be to expand the sport into 'blue' states and Canada.

Say your piece

Which token will lose its Free Parking spot?



The gig is almost up for one of the eight Monopoly tokens. But which will it be? Iron? Thimble? Top Hat? Or another of their board game buddies?

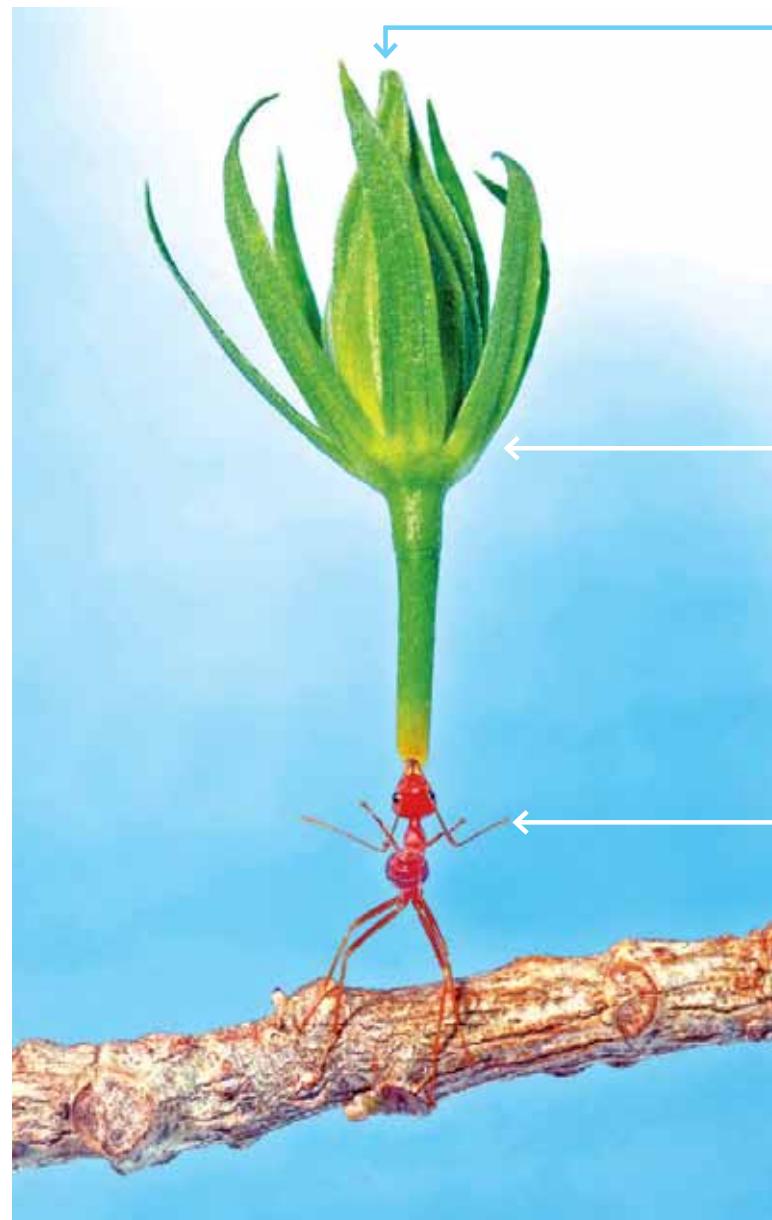
Hasbro is holding a Facebook contest to eliminate one of the eight tokens

that identify the players and introduce a new one. Possible new tokens include a cat, diamond ring, guitar, toy robot and helicopter. So if you are tired of the iron token and would rather be represented by a robot, here's your chance to make those wishes known.

Facebook fans of Monopoly can vote on which piece to eliminate and which one to add. The voting ends Feb. 5.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Straight from the ant's mouth



Mighty balancing act

Insect shows off towering feat

This red ant puts on a show with incredible strength and balance as it lifts a large flower bud above its head. The insect stood on its hind legs and balanced the green shoot with its mouth as it sauntered across the tree branch. Photographer Lessy Sebastian, 48, spotted the ant near his mom's house in Jakarta, Indonesia. **METRO WORLD NEWS**

This bud's for you

 "I got the idea to replace one of the leaves they were carrying with a little flower bud."

Lessy Sebastian, photographer

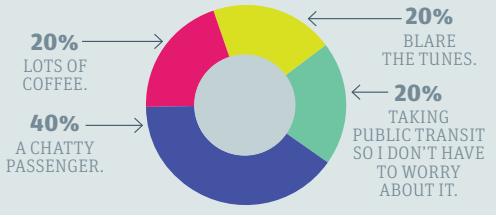
Sebastian intentionally added the flower bud to the pile of leaves the ants were gathering and sat back and waited for one to pick it up.

Ant facts

- **Legendary strength.** A leaf-cutter ant can carry a leaf 50 times its body weight.
- **As old as dinosaurs.** Harvard scientists estimate that ants first arose in the mid-Cretaceous period — about 110-130 million years ago.
- **Population.** Experts reckon ants number up to 10 quadrillion (10,000,000,000,000,000) — more than 140,000 times the human population.

 **Metropolitan Panel** Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

One in 24 U.S. adults have admitted to falling asleep behind the wheel. What's your best tip for staying alert on the road?



Tip	Percentage
BLARE THE TUNES.	20%
TAKING PUBLIC TRANSIT SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT.	20%
A CHATTY PASSENGER.	40%
LOTS OF COFFEE.	20%



@ec90:

Amazed that the girl sitting across from me can take a nap on the bus. #yeg roads aren't really sleep-friendly.

@shantzphoto:

Due to my cat like reflexes and the superb response of my #Mini, I narrowly escaped a xmas tree to my windshield. #stupid #yeg #drivers

@longjohnindex:

Meanwhile in #yeg, it's rather pleasant out. Everyone seems to

be in a great mood. The Interns are even out carolling! #month-late #dontcares

@edgecombe14:

Nothing is sadder than watching an old man miss the train then have the most upset expression on his face. :(#yeg

@dennis_kreba:

How am I supposed to keep my sidewalks clean if drivers in the crescent keep driving over them compacting the snow further?



The Razzies haven't held back at all on their last chance to mock the Twilight series. HANDOUT

Twilight finale leading Razzies worst-of list with 11 nominations

Award show. Adam Sandler and Eddie Murphy also can't escape the alternative Academy roasting despite the vampires taking a big bite

The Twilight finale had better reviews than the franchise's previous four movies, but you'd never know it from the Razzie nominations singling out Hollywood's worst of the year.

The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn — Part 2 led the Razzies lineup late Tuesday with 11 nominations, includ-

ing worst picture, lead-acting slots for Kristen Stewart and Robert Pattinson, and supporting-acting nominations for Taylor Lautner and Ashley Greene.

Other worst-picture nominees are the naval action tale Battleship, the family flick The Oogieloves in the Big Balloon Adventure, Adam Sandler's raunchy dud That's My Boy and Eddie Murphy's comedy flop A Thousand Words.

A spoof of the Academy Awards, the Razzies announcement came a little more than a day before Thursday's Oscar nominations. Winners for the 33rd annual Razzies will be announced Feb. 23, the night before the Oscar show.

The final installment in the supernatural romance involving vampires, werewolves and a moody schoolgirl, Breaking Dawn — Part 2 also had nominations for worst director for Bill Condon, plus worst sequel, screenplay and screen ensemble. It picked up two nominations for worst screen couple — for Stewart and Pattinson and for Lautner and child costar Mackenzie Foy.

Stewart's worst-actress nomination came for two performances in 2012, her Bella Swan of Twilight and the title role in Snow White and the Huntsman.

Earlier Twilight movies have been regular nominees for the Razzies but have not

come away with any key worst-of awards. But the finale seems to be the one Razzies voters have been waiting for, the way Oscar voters were waiting for the last Lord of the Rings film, the one that finally won the big prize.

"That's the analogy we're making, that this is the Razzies flipside," said Razzies founder John Wilson. "This is our equivalent to the Lord of the Rings. It's our members' last chance to razz Twilight."

Sandler — whose Jack and Jill made Razzies history last season by winning a record 10 awards, sweeping every category — remains a Razzies favourite this time.

That's My Boy ran second

with eight Razzie nominations, among them worst actor for Sandler and supporting actor for both Nick Swardson and Vanilla Ice.

Tyler Perry was nominated for both worst actor (Alex Cross and Good Deeds) and actress (Madea's Witness Protection, in which he reprised his cross-dressing title character).

Along with Sandler, Pattinson and Perry, worst-actor contenders are Nicolas Cage for Ghost Rider: Spirit of Vengeance and Seeking Justice; and Murphy for A Thousand Words. Joining Stewart and Perry in the worst-actress lineup are Katherine Heigl for One for the Money.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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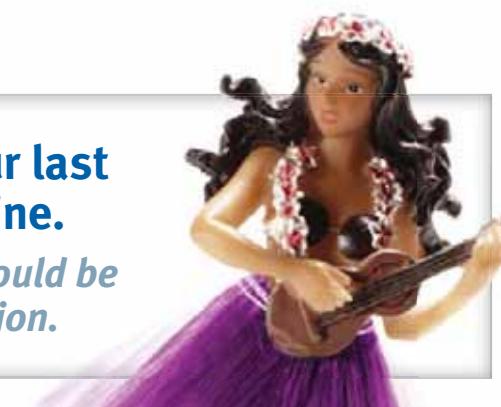


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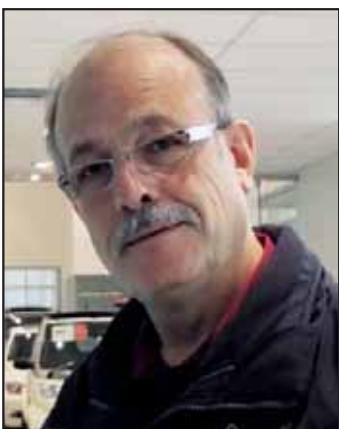
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NBC noncommittal on future of wildly popular Community

Network plans. Single camera shows like The Office, 30 Rock and Community could be on the way out after next season

**NED
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Metro World News

When we spoke with Rob Corddry recently, we asked if he'd be popping up again as former legal pal of Jeff Winger (Joel McHale) on NBC's Community, his response was, "Isn't that show done?"

It's a question a lot of people have been asking, especially given recent developments for the beleaguered comedy with a small but fiercely loyal fan base. First, the show's creator, Dan Harmon, left last spring in a less-than-amicable split with the network.

Then the show was renewed for an abbreviated 13-episode fourth season, then was taken off the schedule altogether until recently,



NBC has moved Community back to its original Thursday night time-slot. HANDBOUT

with the start date changed to Feb. 7.

And then last month, series star Chevy Chase announced he'd be departing at the end of the 13 episodes.

While NBC has moved Community back to its original time slot of Thursday at 8 p.m., the future doesn't necessarily look bright for McHale and his co-stars.

"If it did what it has been doing in the past — because it's back in that time slot — I'd be happy," NBC Entertainment Chairman Robert Greenblatt tells Metro. "Does that automatically mean it gets renewed? You know, it's

hard to be definitive on any front. But if it does significantly worse than it's been doing, that would be worrisome."

But shows like Community — shot on sets using single cameras — might not be part of NBC's comedy plans going forward. Fellow single-cam shows The Office and 30 Rock are ending this year, and the network already has two more traditional multi-camera sitcoms, Whitney and Guys with Kids. In addition, the network is in the process of remaking Up All Night, starring Will Arnett and Christina Applegate, as a multi-cam.

"I would love to do more

multi-cam comedies, and we're developing a bunch of them," Greenblatt tells Metro. "I believe that we have kind of snuffed out a whole farm team of writers and producers who would normally have grown up on a bunch of multi-cams and then run their own shows the way they did back in the day when Friends and Seinfeld and Mad About You and all the great shows were multi-cams. So it's harder to find great writers who can elevate that form, which is now sort of seen as a little bit of the ugly stepchild. That said, we're trying to do more of that."

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Justin Bieber ALL GETTY IMAGES

After another fight Gomez is 'done' with Bieber

Justin Bieber has been having a turbulent 2013 so far, and it may all stem from his failed attempts to patch things up with Selena Gomez. The pair reportedly embarked on a New Year's getaway to Puerto Vallarta, Mexico, but Gomez left

before any champagne bottles could be opened, according to Us Weekly. "They had another huge fight, and Selena won't forgive him," a source says of Gomez, who flew home Dec. 30. "Selena is done with him."



Eva Mendes and Ryan Gosling

Gosling's mom given key to Eva Mendes' closet

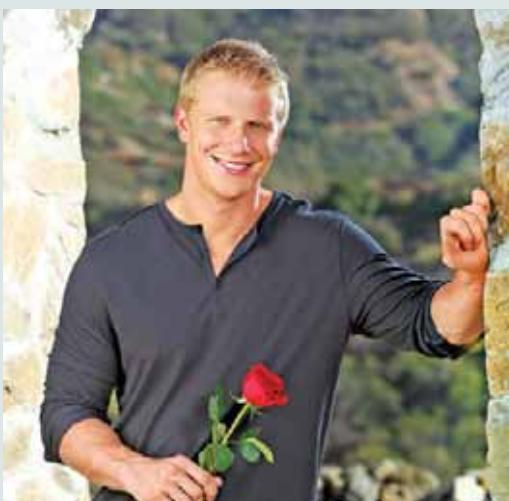
Ryan Gosling's girlfriend, Eva Mendes, didn't make it to the Gangster Squad premiere earlier this week, but some of her stuff did at least. "My mother's wearing all my girlfriend's clothes,"

Gosling, who brought along mom Donna as his date, told E! News. Donna, donning a short dress and elaborate trench coat, confirmed, "I'm wearing Eva Mendes. She let me raid her closet."

METRO DISH

OUR TAKE ON THE WORLD OF CELEBRITIES

The Word



An opinion on what *The Bachelor* is really thinking



THE WORD

Dorothy Robinson

scene@metronews.ca

In Touch magazine has "exclusive pics" of the "sexiest bachelor ever" in this week's edition. The mag shows this season's star of *The Bachelor*, Sean Lowe, with his torso wrapped in a blue towel as he channels his inner Angelina in an undisclosed shower somewhere.

After he covered up, he gave an insightful interview to the magazine. (Just kidding! It was a totally generic chat!) Lowe, who is a former linebacker and

works as an insurance salesman, says he is "very hopeful that I'll meet a great girl" on the show. "I would love to get married. I'm absolutely ready for love."

As he whittles down the pool of 26 single, desperate women to his one true love on national television, he has an idea of what he is looking for. "She has to be genuine, want the same things I want, and have a great sense of humour," he says.

Just for once, I wish these guys would speak the truth: "I'm looking for someone who is as fame-hungry yet dim-witted as I am, who will pretend to be my girlfriend for the allotted time our contract spells out. She should also be skinny and look like a professional dancer from Reno. Not eating my arm in my sleep due to starving herself through most of her 20s is also a bonus."



Lindsay Lohan

Lohan's mother blames Lindsay's dad for their daughter's problems

Dina Lohan says all of daughter Lindsay Lohan's problems can be blamed on Michael Lohan being an awful husband. "Lindsay saw her dad abuse me. That's why she's so screwed up," Dina tells the New York Daily News. "She saw a lot

of crazy stuff. I want the world to know the root of her problems." Michael, for his part, refutes the claims. "She's bringing this up now because she's drinking and partying with Lindsay," he says. "And she keeps robbing Lindsay. She is the devil."

Twitter



@rihanna

I bet you wanna know what I'm all about



@Sethrogen

They may have made a disgusting mockery of news media as we know it, but Fox has put together one hell of a Tuesday lineup.



@RebelWilson

I got dressed in the dark this morning (weirdly, I look better than usual...maybe I should cut off the electricity more often?)



@SethMacFarlane

Just want to point out that the dinner party in "The Hobbit" is the same length as an actual dinner party.

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Will, here I am!

Oh, this right here?

When Will.i.am gets dressed, he wants you to notice his clothes — and gadgets too. He talks techcessories, Kanye West and Japanese fashion.

RICHARD
PECKETT
life@metronews.ca

"It's like warp speed now and BOOM! It's pretty exciting." That's how Will.i.am describes taking his i.am+ iPhone accessory from conception to the shop floor in just seven months. We're sitting in a recording studio in London talking about his love of gadgets and fashion, which, by the way, hasn't gone unnoticed amongst his music pals.

DJ David Guetta describes him as "a bit of a crazy scientist who has difficulty with only doing one thing at a time."

So true. Right now, his long list of side projects include appearing as a judge on Britain's version of The Voice, an album with Guetta and a X-Factor-style television show that he plans to release in late 2013.

What were you trying to achieve with the i.am+ project?

Let's take a tourist with their camera and their sense of odessey, documentation and pleasure and turn this into a cool, wearable camera. It's an iPhone case that actually serves a functional purpose — it's phone, function and fashionology. Personalization, customization and rare oddities are the season right now. You can have anything right now, but what about limitation and exclusivity? You don't want to go all the way Steampunk



Will.i.am's foto.sosho is being marketed as the world's first digital camera and app combination for the iPhone 4s and iPhone 5. It transforms phones into a digital cameras with photo filters, image editing and instant social media upload.

PROVIDED

because Steampunk is like super, super, super, dooper rare. What I mean is, the design has to pay tribute to limitation and functionality.

A lot of celebrities branch out into design and fashion, why do you think it's becoming so commonplace?

You want my honest opinion? Their manager told them that they could make some money here.

Like who?

I don't want to put people under a bus.

What do you think of Kanye West's line?

Kanye, I see his passion and I understand his passion. He's going to figure it out.

Is that your way of saying his clothing line still needs some work?

No, Kanye's game is that he wants to design. He's saying, "I want you guys to see my stuff." That's dope, right? He's not playing the usual (celebrity) game — he's passionate.

Would you buy any of his designs?

Yeah, because I like going for treasures. I want people to say, "Where did you get that?" "Oh, this right here? This is one of Kanye's pieces." I got it. They're conversation pieces.

Speaking of conversation pieces, you collaborated on a collection with the Japanese label Rynshu. How did you discover the line?

I was that guy who said, "Where did you get that? Rynshu? What the hell's Rynshu? Can you text it to me?"

What kind of guy wears Rynshu?

Tech-savvy, fashion-forward people. Invisible tastemakers.

Sounds like you. You've had a few different looks over the years. How do you know when it's time to change it up?

When you see this silhouette (points to himself) out multiple times on people that you probably wouldn't want to hang out with. That's why I hit up Rynshu, Loveless, Verbal and Yoon in Japan. I go to all the little cool spots that are rare enough, so I don't look like everybody else. I need to have some oddities, dude!

How would you describe your look at the moment?

Short in the back, long in the front, draping on top and skinny on the bottom — with big shoes.

THE MAN'S MANY LOOKS

If each outfit were a song, what would Will.i.am call it?



"I'd call that one Ghetto Egypt. It's fit but loose. I like different shades of black and gold. Right now, all the kids are rocking two chains, so I'm rocking five."



BOTH PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

"I'd call this look, Peace. (Laughs) Err, we were being fun and young. No ... no, I wouldn't wear that now."

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Showing your home? Make sure it's perfect

It takes more than just luck to sell your house. With proper evaluation of both your property and the current market, your chances of success are greatly increased. But many factors can ultimately contribute to a successful showing/sale of your home.

Here are five tips you might consider when selling your largest financial asset, from Todd Talbot Host of Love It or List It Vancouver. The show premiered Monday on W Network.

Know your weaknesses

Do you really want to be at the meeting when the offer is presented? Will you be helpful to the negotiations or harmful? Can you control your emotional response? Are you so friendly and chatty that you detract from the process? Know your strengths and above all, know your weaknesses and discuss a strategy with your Realtor. Remember that while your home is your pride and joy, ultimately the sale of that home is a business transaction. And that can be hard emotionally. Your Realtor is a professional who acts on your instructions. Sometimes the best choice is to let your agent negotiate reporting back to you when a decision needs to be made.



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First impressions

Many folks forget the first impression! Even before a buyer sees your home, they need to get through the front door. Make sure that the key and the lock work effortlessly. Don't leave instructions to "pull hard on the door, jiggle the key to the left, then quickly to the right". First question I'd be thinking: "What else is wrong with this place?"

Plan the closing day

Pick dates for completion and possession that allow you to seamlessly move into your new home. It's not ideal to have to keep all your worldly possessions in a moving truck for a few days while you wait for your new house. So have a plan in mind that you discuss with your Realtor in advance of receiving an offer.

Be prepared

Make sure everyone living at the house is aware when showings are scheduled. The buyer and the Realtor knock, then audibly announce their arrival, but you can't hear because you are in the shower. Wandering out of the shower as potential buyers are wandering down the hall is awkward. It happens!

Appropriate presentation

Ensure the house has an appropriate presentation. False teeth on the bedside table, or a camera on a tripod pointed at the bed tend to draw focus away from the house. Make sure that the house — and only the house — is the most memorable aspect of the tour.

Take a look inside that microwave

Dear Mr. Butler,
Now that the holidays are over and my extended family is gone, I noticed that the inside of my microwave oven is a bloody mess. How do I clean the inside of my microwave oven? Because I live alone and am always very careful, I have never needed to clean the inside, even after 10 years

of use, but now that others have made a mess of it I don't know what to do.

CHARLES THE BUTLER
askcharlesthebutler@metronews.ca
For more, visit
charlesmacpherson.com

Cleaning the inside of the microwave oven is important to do on a regular basis, as we don't necessarily see dirt or food particles, but build-up of these items will happen on the inside of the unit and therefore needs to be cleaned regularly.

First, you should always read the instruction manual for your particular microwave oven and follow their directions.

Secondly, I have boiled water on high for four to five minutes, this has given me enough steam inside the microwave to loosen any food items.

Once you have "steamed" the inside, a good wipe with a wet sponge with a little PH neutral dish soap will do wonders. Don't forget, once you have washed and wiped out the inside, to rinse it with a fresh, clean cloth of warm

water and dry with a tea towel.

Lastly, I have tried the commercial microwave cleaners. These are packs that you buy at the grocery store and steam inside the microwave.

They have a cleaning solution that is released and you wipe down the inside of the microwave in the same way as above.

I personally have not found these necessary, as the boiling water trick works perfectly for me. But there are your solutions, let us know how it goes!



We've come a long way from throwing batteries in the trash. ISTOCK

Battery recycling finally an easy task

How do I recycle batteries?
-Lucy, Burnaby



QUEEN OF GREEN
Tovah Paglaro
green@metronews.ca

Remember when we were kids and batteries went in the trash? Like everything, then remember when we found out that batteries were actually household hazardous waste and that they really shouldn't be in landfills at all?

So you saved batteries until

you had a drawer full — with the best of intentions to recycle them — only there was nowhere to make good on your benevolent desire. When the drawer couldn't close, they got dumped in the trash anyway.

That was in what the late 1990s? It's taken a little while for the infrastructure to catch up to the knowledge, but battery recycling in the year 2013 is finally simple! The statistics corroborate this — the percentage of batteries being recycled is rising steadily.

Join the club! Get on the bandwagon! It's easy!

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Free battery collection sites are now commonplace across Canada. This is due in no small part to the battery and cell-phone recycling organization Call 2 Recycle, whose drop boxes have popped up in hundreds of recycling depots, retail locations, community centres and non-profit offices across the country.

Punch your location into Call 2 Recycle's interactive map and be amazed by the recycling ease in your community.

Here's the catch: in some provinces non-rechargeable batteries are not accepted. So what are you to do with those single-use alkaline batteries? Or if you are one of the folks on the final frontier, with no obvious battery drop boxes in your neighbourhood?

1. Do not throw the batteries in the trash.

2. Visit municipal and provincial websites to find resources for recycling not just batteries, but all sorts of less-than-desirable waste items.

Of course, the fewer batteries we use, the fewer batteries we need to dispose of. Minimizing waste production is the place to start.

Choose non-electronic alternatives whenever possible. The average Canadian uses six wireless products in his or her daily life. Imagine the difference cutting one of those would make. w



Your microwave's instruction manual should give cleaning directions. ISTOCK

Cure the winter blahs with Italian-style Onion Soup with Poached Egg

1. In a large saucepan over medium heat, cook the pancetta until it is golden. Transfer it to a plate using a slotted spoon.

2. Return the saucepan to medium heat. Add the olive oil and onions, then cook, covered but stirring occasionally, until very soft, about 20 minutes. Remove the cover and cook, stirring frequently, for another 35 to 45 minutes.

Ingredients

- 2 oz chopped pancetta
- 3 tbsp extra-virgin olive oil
- 3 lbs yellow onions, thinly sliced
- 1 cup red wine
- 5 cups low-sodium beef or chicken broth
- Kosher salt
- 1 tbsp white or cider vinegar
- 4 large eggs
- 1 1/2 oz Parmigiano-Reggiano cheese, finely grated (about 1/2 cup)
- Ground black pepper
- Eight 1/2-inch-thick baguette slices, toasted

or until the onions are golden brown and caramelized. Add the wine and boil until it is reduced by half. Add the broth and simmer for another 20 minutes.

3. Bring a large saucepan of salted water to a low simmer. Add the vinegar.

4. Crack each egg into a small glass. One at a time, gently and slowly pour each egg into the simmering water, bringing the lip of the glass right down to the water so that the egg slides in. Depending on the size of your pan, you may need to cook them in 2 batches. Cook for 4 minutes, then use a slotted spoon to lift each egg out (letting excess water drip away).

5. To serve, ladle the soup into 4 bowls. Top each with a poached egg, sprinkle with some of the cheese, some of the pancetta and pepper to taste. Serve each portion with 2 toasts on the side. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS/ SARA MOULTON, AUTHOR OF THREE COOKBOOKS, INCLUDING SARA MOULTON'S EVERYDAY FAMILY DINNERS.**



This recipe serves four. MATTHEW MEAD/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Country Chicken Casserole. Cold January days call for comfort eats

1. In a large saucepan, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of the oil over medium heat. Sauté garlic, leek, carrots, parsnips, mushrooms, 4 ml (3/4 tsp) of the thyme, salt and pepper for 6 minutes or until vegetables are tender-crisp.

2. Whisk flour into milk; gradually stir into saucepan along with broth and thyme until coated; sprinkle over chicken mixture. Bake in a 220 C (425 F) oven for 12 to 14 minutes or until bread is toasted and sauce is bubbling. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/FOODLAND ONTARIO**

3. In a bowl, toss bread with remaining oil and thyme until coated; sprinkle over chicken mixture. Bake in a 220 C (425 F) oven for 12 to 14 minutes or until bread is toasted and sauce is bubbling.

Ingredients

- 20 ml (4 tsp) olive oil, divided
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 leek (white and light green parts), chopped
- 250 ml (1 cup) each sliced carrots and parsnips
- 250 ml (1 cup) quartered mushrooms
- 6 ml (1 1/4 tsp) dried thyme leaves, divided
- 1 ml (1/4 tsp) each salt and pepper
- 45 ml (3 tbsp) all-purpose flour
- 250 ml (1 cup) 1 per cent milk
- 250 ml (1 cup) sodium-reduced chicken broth
- 10 ml (2 tsp) Dijon mustard
- 500 ml (2 cups) shredded cooked chicken or turkey
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) frozen peas
- 500 ml (2 cups) torn whole-wheat bread pieces

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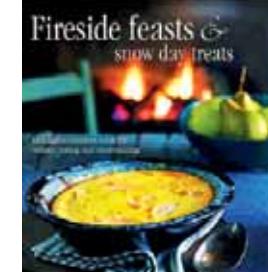
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Cookbook of the Week

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The book makes the most of the finest seasonal ingredients, is beautifully illustrated and boasts sections such as: Snow Day Snacks, Cold Day Comforts, Fireside Feasts, Winter Salads, Indulgent Treats and A Cup of Cheer. **METRO**





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Bettman to fans: 'I'm sorry'

NHL. Commissioner makes clear he intends to celebrate his 20th anniversary in role on Feb. 1 and remain in office long beyond that

With the third lockout on his watch finally nearing its end, Gary Bettman appeared a humble and apologetic man.

The NHL commissioner told fans, players and sponsors that he was sorry the start of the season was delayed by more than three months. The apology came in the form of an unexpected "personal statement" delivered to reporters Wednesday after he announced that owners had unanimously voted in favour of ratifying the new collective bargaining agreement.

"To the players who were very clear they wanted to be on the ice and not negotiating labour contracts, to our partners who support the league financially and personally, and, most importantly, to our fans, who love and have missed NHL hockey, I'm sorry," said Bettman. "I know that an explanation or an apology will not erase the hard feelings that have built up over the past few months but I owe you an apology nevertheless."

It was the first public sign the NHL was ready to start rebuilding an image tarnished

Players set to vote

- The players aren't expected to start their own ratification vote until Friday. It will be conducted electronically over two days and needs majority support from the roughly 740 union members to pass.
- If all goes to plan, the process would be completed by Saturday and training camps would open around the league on Sunday.

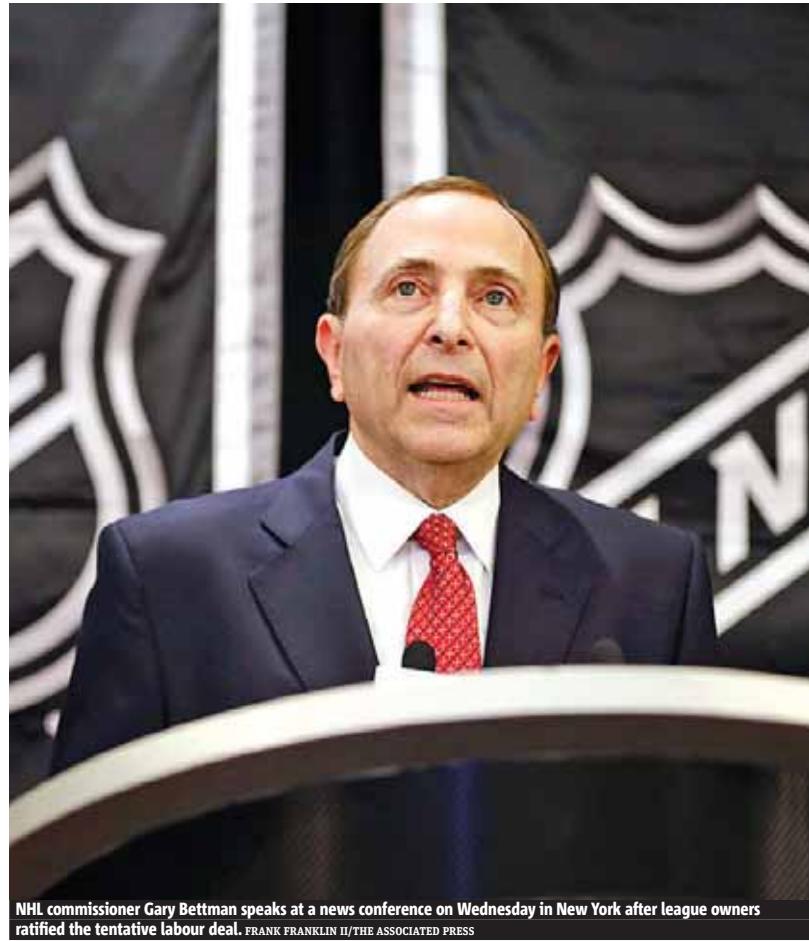
by more labour disputes over the last 20 years than any of the other North American pro sports leagues.

This was Bettman as he's rarely seen. Standing behind a podium in the same hotel where he had a notorious blow-up during a press conference last month, the contrite commissioner took his medicine. It might have been his only choice.

Bettman was publicly labelled everything from a "cancer" to an "idiot" by players during the course of negotiations that stretched over six months.

The commissioner wouldn't give details about what the league would do to make it up to the fans, but said there are plans in the works.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



NHL commissioner Gary Bettman speaks at a news conference on Wednesday in New York after league owners ratified the tentative labour deal. FRANK FRANKLIN II/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Leafs fire GM Burke in dramatic fashion



Newly-appointed Toronto Maple Leafs general manager Dave Nonis attends a news conference in Toronto on Wednesday. CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Davis Cup

Levine has to wait to represent Canada on court

Tennis player Jesse Levine is flying the Maple Leaf but he'll have to wait until later this year before making his Davis Cup debut for Canada.

Levine, who was born

in Ottawa but moved to the U.S. at age 13, recently decided he would prefer to play for his native country and Tennis Canada petitioned the International Tennis Federation on his behalf.

However, ITF rules dictate that there is a 90-day waiting period from the time a player applies to change nationalities before they can represent their new country in international competition. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Brian Burke's colourful tenure as general manager of the Toronto Maple Leafs was never short on drama.

So it only seemed fitting his departure from the team would shock the entire hockey world.

The Leafs dropped the bombshell Wednesday, announcing they had relieved the fiery Burke of his duties as president and general manager and replaced him with his right-hand man, Dave Nonis.

While the Leafs had never reached the playoffs during Burke's four seasons at the helm, the timing of the

move was surprising given it comes just days before the start of the lockout-shortened season.

But Tom Anselmi, the president of Maple Leafs Sports and Entertainment, said the decision had been talked about for months following an extensive review of the hockey club by Anselmi and the new ownership group.

"The news is coming as a shock but I don't think the decision has happened overnight," Anselmi told a packed, hastily assembled news conference at the Air Canada Centre. "It's a con-

New owners wield axe

The sale of MLSE to BCE and Rogers Communications was finalized in August.

- Anselmi said the operational review began sometime after that.

versation that's been ongoing and we came to a decision.

"Once we got to that decision I'm a firm believer it's only fair to make the decision and move forward."

THE CANADIAN PRESS



RG3 has ACL, LCL injuries repaired

Robert Griffin III underwent reconstructive knee surgery Wednesday and faces a challenging rehab if he is to return for the start of next season. The Washington Redskins quarterback had his lateral collateral ligament repaired and his ACL in his

right knee reconstructed for a second time. The surgery was performed in Florida by orthopedist James Andrews, who was optimistic that Griffin would be back on the field this fall.

"We expect a full recovery, and it is everybody's hope and belief that due to Robert's high motivation, he will be ready for the 2013 season," Andrews said in a statement. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Spurs put boots to ailing Lakers

NBA. No love for Los Angeles as banged up team drops another tough game

A hard-fought loss against a longtime rival did little to brighten the mood of one of the more tumultuous seasons in the storied history of the Los Angeles Lakers.

Tony Parker scored 24 points and the San Antonio Spurs handed the slumping Lakers their fifth straight loss with a 108-105 victory Wednesday night.

Manu Ginobili added 19 points and Tiago Splitter and Stephen Jackson had 14 each for San Antonio (28-10), who have won 11 straight at home. Splitter also had a career-high 14 rebounds.

Kobe Bryant had 27 points, Metta World Peace added 23 and Earl Clark 22 for Los Angeles (15-20). Bryant was 10 for 24 from the field, missing a 3-pointer on his final attempt



Kobe Bryant catches his breath on Wednesday in San Antonio.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

that would have tied the game. Clark missed a follow-up 3 off a long rebound.

What can the Lakers take from such a battle?

"We lost five in a row," Bryant said. "It's pretty self-explanatory."

Coming off a 125-112 loss at Houston on Tuesday, the Lakers fought until the final buzzer.

Bryant's three-pointer

pulled Los Angeles to 105-99 with 3:32 remaining. The three led to duelling cries of support between a large contingent of Lakers fans seated near the Los Angeles bench and Spurs fans.

Did the effort give Lakers coach Mike D'Antoni reason to smile?

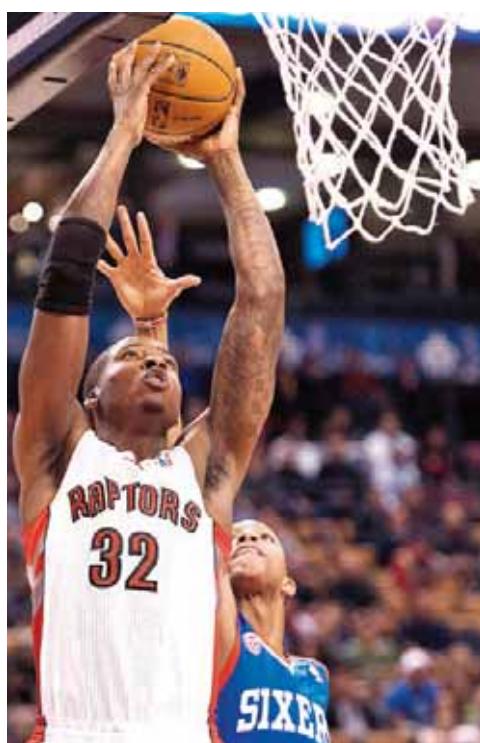
"No, not really," he said. "I'm proud of their effort. They fought. They fought last night against Houston. You can see the team getting some traction, but we're a long ways away from a smile."

Even with Lakers big men Dwight Howard, Pau Gasol and Jordan Hill out with injuries, the Spurs managed only a 48-40 rebounding advantage. Los Angeles forced 19 turnovers to keep the game close throughout.

Bryant had a sluggish start offensively and the Lakers fell behind 54-45 at the half.

His first basket came with less than a minute remaining in the first quarter and he closed the half two for six from the field."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Raptors put hurt on Philly

Raptors forward Ed Davis soars in for a dunk past Philadelphia 76ers forward Evan Turner on Wednesday in Toronto. DeMar DeRozan and Amir Johnson scored 19 points apiece and Davis added 17 leading the Raptors to a 90-72 victory that ended a two-game slide. FRANK GUINN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA

Love gone 8-10 weeks due to broken hand

Minnesota's Kevin Love will miss the next eight to 10 weeks after needing surgery to repair a right hand that is broken for the second time this season.

It's the latest major injury to a team that has suffered them all season.

Love missed the first three weeks of the regular season after breaking his hand. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NBA

Anthony gets 1 game suspension

Carmelo Anthony was suspended one game by the NBA on Wednesday for confronting Kevin Garnett after the New York Knicks' loss to Boston on Monday.

Anthony, who was angry about Garnett's choice of words during a fourth-quarter altercation, went toward the Celtics' locker room after the game and later waited for Garnett outside Boston's team bus. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Barry Bonds appeared on 36.2 per cent of the ballots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Sammy Sosa appeared on 12.5 per cent of the ballots.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



Roger Clemens appeared on 37.6 per cent of the 569 ballots. Baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 per cent required for induction to Cooperstown.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

Hall of Fame doors closed to Clemens, Bonds, Sosa and co.

Baseball. Not a single high-profile player from steroids era elected for trip to Cooperstown

No one was elected to the Hall of Fame this year. When voters closed the doors to Barry Bonds, Roger Clemens and Sammy Sosa, they also shut out everybody else.

For only the second time in four decades, baseball writers failed to give any player the 75 per cent required for induction to Cooperstown, sending a powerful signal that stars of the steroids era will be held to a different standard.

All the awards and accomplishments collected over long careers by Bonds, Clemens and Sosa could not offset suspicions those feats were boosted by performance-enhancing drugs.

Voters also denied entry Wednesday to fellow newcomers Craig Biggio, Mike Piazza and Curt Schilling, along with holdovers Jack Morris, Jeff Bagwell and Lee Smith.

Among the most honoured players of their generation, these standouts won't find their images among the 300 bronze plaques on the oak walls in Cooperstown, where — at least for now — the doors appear to be bolted shut on anyone tainted by PEDs.

Bonds, Clemens and Sosa retired after the 2007 season. They were eligible for the Hall for the first time and have up to 14 more years on the writers' ballot.

"I'm kind of glad that nobody got in this year," Hall of Famer Al Kaline said. "I feel honoured to be in the Hall of Fame. And I would've felt a little uneasy sitting up there on the stage, listening to some of these new guys talk about how great they were."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Unpopular votes

- Biggio, 20th on the career list with 3,060 hits, appeared on 68.2 per cent of the 569 ballots, the highest total, but 39 votes shy.
- The three newcomers with the highest profiles weren't close to majority support, with Clemens at 37.6 per cent, Bonds at 36.2 and Sosa at 12.5.
- At ceremonies in Cooperstown on July 28, the only inductees will be three men who died more than 70 years ago: Yankees owner Jacob Ruppert, umpire Hank O'Day and barehanded catcher Deacon White. They were chosen last month by the 16-member panel considering individuals from the era before integration in 1947.

No strings attached

MLB to go wireless with bullpen communication

Even dugouts and bullpens might not need that old landline soon.

Major League Baseball and T-Mobile announced Tuesday that the cell-phone company will provide wireless devices that managers and pitching coaches can use to make the call to get relievers warming up.

The wireless phones will have docking stations in both sets of dugouts and bullpens, but managers and coaches can carry them. The signal shuts off if the phones are taken outside those areas.

The wireless phones will automatically ring when pulled from the docking devices, and a swipe when the phone is being carried will make the call as well. Both sets of dugouts and bullpens will have antennas to transmit the signals.

T-Mobile and MLB Advanced Media also are working on other ways to improve digital content for smartphones and tablets. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Horoscopes

♈ Aries

March 21 - April 20

There is no limit to what you can do over the next few days, but you must have a clear idea of what it is you wish to accomplish. The chance of a lifetime could be heading your way at this very moment.

♉ Taurus

April 21 - May 21

Listen carefully to what someone tells you today and start thinking of ways you can use this information to make your everyday life more enjoyable. What you do with this knowledge matters more than where it came from.

♊ Gemini

May 22 - June 21

You have some serious issues to deal with, issues that will determine whether you make a big profit or a big loss. The most important thing is that your aims are realistic. Also, stick to what you are good at.

♋ Cancer

June 22 - July 21

You are determined to get to the bottom of a situation that has been worrying you for many weeks. What you find may surprise you but it will also help you understand why certain people have been acting strangely.

♌ Leo

July 24 - Aug. 23

Pace yourself sensibly today because the planets warn if you don't slow down you could do yourself some harm. If what you put into a task is more than what you get out of it then it's time to stop.

♍ Virgo

Aug. 24 - Sept. 23

This is still a good time of year for you and with Venus now moving through the most dynamic area of your chart romance and creativity are under excellent stars. What does your heart desire most? Go out and get it.

♎ Libra

Sept. 24 - Oct. 23

Cosmic activity in the domestic sector of your chart will make it easy to find the words that make a difference when dealing with loved ones and relatives. Always be nice, even when others are not being nice to you.

♏ Scorpio

Oct. 24 - Nov. 22

You will turn on the charm today and get anything — yes, anything — you desire. When the mood takes you, as it does now, you know exactly what to say to wrap friends and loved ones round your little finger.

♐ Sagittarius

Nov. 23 - Dec. 21

Because you don't like to cause a scene, you may have let someone get away with too much in recent weeks. Now you must get a grip on the situation and make sure they know it was a one-off event.

♑ Capricorn

Dec. 22 - Jan. 20

People will make a better job of things if you give them the freedom to make decisions. With both the Sun and Venus moving through your sign, you don't have to worry about them getting it wrong.

♒ Aquarius

Jan. 21 - Feb. 19

You must never be afraid to use a few harsh words if you think they are needed, and it seems they are needed now. Partners and work colleagues must be made to realize that you will not be pushed around.

♓ Pisces

Feb. 20 - March 20

Cosmic activity in some of the more dynamic areas of your chart will give you the energy and the self-belief to put yourself on show over the next 24 hours. Don't worry what others might think — just be yourself.

SALLY BROMPTON

Crossword: Canada Across & Down

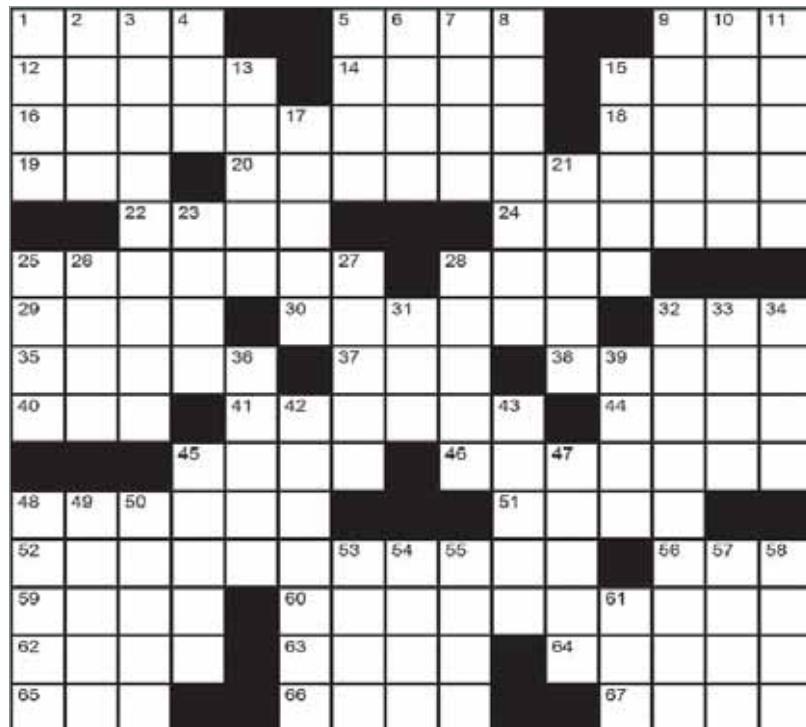
Across

1. Peggy's __, NS
5. Ottawa-born singer/songwriter Paul
9. 7's phone letters
12. Crunchy
14. Luxury label
15. Character in The Legend of Sleepy Hollow, __ Bones
16. "ET Canada" co-host Rick
18. Capital of Latvia
19. 2- tissue
20. "Stompa" is a hit off this Juno-winner's latest album 'Harmony': 2 wds.
22. Ms. MacNeil
24. Good
25. Trend in manicures: 2 wds.
28. Green Gables girl
29. Approx. take-offs
30. Shakespearean verse
32. Angkor __ (Temple in Cambodia)
35. Pool nuisance
37. Pre-__ student
38. Rocker Bryan
40. Affiliation
41. Canadian grocery store chain
44. Diva's vocal
45. Power symbols for Pharaohs
46. Ads emailed-in-bulk source
48. Maggie Smith's "Downton Abbey" role
51. Nitassinan is their homeland
52. Winnipeg's __ Park
56. French possessive
59. Miss Lane of comics
60. Canadian director David
62. "Before __ you go..."
63. Suffix to 'Billion'
64. Heckle
65. Rep.'s political rival
66. Parked cars areas
67. Tori of tunes

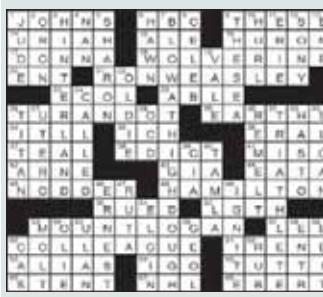
Down

1. USSR, to Russians
2. Toothbrush brand, __-B
3. The great victory, and sacrifice, of the Canadian Corps of April 9th to April 12th, 1917: The Battle of
4. Clairvoyance, commonly
5. French aviation pioneer, Clem-ent __
6. Egypt's river
7. City on the Rhein
8. She gave Theseus thread to escape the Minotaur's labyrinth
9. __ & Prejudice" (2005)
10. Vancouver-born actor Seth
11. Intelligent
13. Penne, for example
15. Actress, __ Dallas Howard
17. Approaches
21. Designer, Oscar de la __
23. Ingrid's "Casablanca" (1942) role
25. "Nifty!"
26. Mythical Hun king
27. Pyramids, pretty much
28. Comic actor Mr. Samberg's
31. Social pages word
32. Canadian __ (Military attraction in Ottawa): 2 wds.
33. Marie-Claire's friend
34. Ivan the Terrible's job
36. German industrial city
39. Rhett's famous word
42. Hakim __ (Eyewear chain)

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



Yesterday's Crossword



Sudoku

How to play
Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved.

Yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	3	7	9	8	6	1	4
1	4	8	6	2	5	3	7	9
9	6	7	3	1	4	2	5	8
2	8	5	1	4	3	7	9	6
6	1	9	5	7	2	8	4	3
7	3	4	9	8	6	1	2	5
4	5	2	8	3	1	9	6	7
8	7	1	4	6	9	5	3	2
3	9	6	2	5	7	4	8	1

7	8	2	9
5	4	9	6
9			3
6	2	1	5
1	8		4
4	2	3	9
7	4		2
6	2	3	4
8	5	4	3

Weather

TODAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY



MAX: -15°
MIN: -15°



MAX: -14°
MIN: -21°



MAX: -9°
MIN: -21°



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